

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 625
By DuBois

A RESOLUTION to name a segment of U.S. Highway 43 in Maury County the "Purple Heart Highway".

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly, along with the citizens of Tennessee and of this nation, are intensely proud of those brave men and women who have served their country in times of armed conflict in defense of our liberty and way of life; all Americans are eternally grateful for and appreciative of the sacrifices made by those citizen soldiers who have sometimes suffered injury or death at the hands of our foes; and

WHEREAS, General George Washington, Commander of the Continental Army, conceiving a need for a military decoration which would be available to the common soldier for outstanding valor and merit, instituted by General Orders of August 7, 1782, the Badge of Military Merit; it was designed as a heart made of purple cloth or silk edged with narrow lace or binding to be worn on the left breast; and

WHEREAS, General Washington's orders were lost or misfiled for almost 150 years until a search in preparation for the celebration of his bicentennial brought them to light again; on February 22, 1932, the War Department revived the Purple Heart decoration as a bronze metal heart, plated with gold and enameled with various colors, with a bust of Washington in the

center, surmounted with the Washington coat-of-arms, suspended from a purple and white ribbon; and

WHEREAS, the Purple Heart is awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who have been wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of an enemy, and posthumously awarded to the next of kin in the name of those who have been killed in action or who died of wounds received in action; Purple Hearts have been awarded for action in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, and up to and including more recent conflicts at the end of the last century and the beginning of this century; and

WHEREAS, throughout the years, Tennesseans have been inspired by those who have earned the Purple Heart to renewed confidence, loyalty, and support for the United States Armed Forces; their combat wounds remind us of their great valor and unshaken commitment to the preservation of this nation, its liberty, and its way of life; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are profoundly appreciative of the selfless sacrifice made by countless sons and daughters of Tennessee who have served their nation in the United States Armed Forces, especially those who have received combat wounds, some of which resulted in death, who were awarded the Purple Heart; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the segment of U.S. Highway 43 from its intersection with U.S. Highway 31 in Maury County southward to the Maury County - Lawrence County line is hereby designated as the "Purple Heart Highway" in recognition of the sacrifices of the brave men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States who have sacrificed life and limb in defense of our liberty throughout our history.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating such segment of U.S. Highway 43 as the "Purple Heart Highway".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this act shall become operative only if the Federal Highway Administrator advises the Commissioner of Transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall become operative only if Maury County, Tennessee either (1) remits the estimated cost of the erection of such signs to the Department of Transportation within one (1) year of the effective date of this resolution, or (2) manufactures and erects such signs pursuant to state and federal guidelines and as approved by the Department. If electing option (1), Maury County shall make payment of the estimated cost prior to any expenditure by the State for manufacture or installation of such signs. The Department shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to Maury County within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, Maury County shall remit an amount equal to the difference in such costs to the Department within thirty (30) days of receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the Department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Transportation.